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Chapter 4 - Section A - Part 2.

The Indians were the first settlers in the Blaney country. Thomas Johnson, son of William Johnson of New York, settled in Blaney about 1848. The Johnson cabin stood on the bank near the present quarry. A spring under the bank has always been known as the Johnson Spring. But far from the cabin was a favorite camping place for Indians, and many stone articles have been found there. Other proof of the visit of these people was an old apple orchard, and one tree remained in this day, over a hundred years old and known as the Johnson apple. This field is known as the "Old Orchard Field". A part of it belongs to M. E. Nelson and the other part to A. E. Holt.

Early records told us that Thomas Johnson was a soldier with General Warren in the Battle of Fort Sumner. When he returned home, he found his cabin in ruins. His wife had been killed by the Indians, and his son Charles carried into captivity. He was so broken up over his wife's death and the fate of his son that he returned to the army and served beyond the Ohio River.

At the close of the war he returned to his uncertain home, but there were no ties to hold him, and he resolved to journey to the west, and there among wilder tribes seek his son and wife. As with his rifle he pushed out into the wide desert. A year passed and there came no tidings of him. His friends believed that he had fallen a victim of Indian attacks. The fact was that he had journeyed far to the southwest and found his land was in possession of a leading

and details. The landward journey was longer, and at least both reached here and lived many years in what is now Poudre Valley.

Arrows point a large boundary of land, several thousand acres that extended from Indian Creek to Stony Creek. Brinscoe's heirs lost this area from the old section. The Brinscoes left this section long ago and we know nothing of the descendants of these brave pioneers.

The families to follow the Brinscoes were the Mayhews. About 1800 Robert Mayhe, Sr. moved to Hargy from the Bridger Plateau in Transylvania and settled on the Brinscoe homestead. He and his boys opened up a fire zone and erected a two story brick dwelling--the only brick dwelling in the community. Robert Mayhe and his wife lived and died in the "brick mansion". He was born in 1770 and died 1850 aged ninety years. His grave was the first in the Hargy graveyard.

Robert Mayhe's farm was divided among his sons and one daughter. The names of his sons were: Isaac, James, William and Robert, Jr. Robert inherited the old homestead and lived there several years. In 1807 he sold the old home to J. J. Mayhe.

Isaac Mayhe settled in the woods just opposite the present site of the Hargy church. His home was a broad log house about sixteen by twenty feet, two stories high, shaven-shingle roof, painted red around walls, one door and two windows in the first story. In 1811 a fine frame house was erected on the site of this old log house by J. J. Mayhe.

About 1811 Mayhe completely burned with evidence on the spot of the house. Isaac Mayhe constructed camp Hargy and

as he continued he was seized by vesicles from which he died. He has been buried in the old graveyard by the side of his father.

Colonel John Hagler was an early settler in this community. He was born about 1800, and is the first member of his family about whom any definite information can be found. He was the first member of the Hagler family to settle in Buchanan County. His home was at Sulphur Spring about three miles from the Jackson cabin. He was the first colonel of the 10th Regiment. In the organization of the county, he was a leader and he held a prominent place in the early history of the county. When the county was first formed, he administered the judicial office to the other members of the first court in 1820. For many years he was a justice of the peace and a member of the Buchanan County Court. He did much in keeping business papers and frequently adjourned sittings out of court. His library was the largest and best in the county, containing over a hundred volumes.

About this time Hays became a popular demand for a Constitutional Convention and the Assembly in 1827-28 passed an act providing that vote be taken upon the question. This resulted in a large majority in favor of the convention, and they assembled at Abbeville, October 3, 1828. This was the first Assembly body of men that had assembled in Virginia since 1788. Among the guests "Adams and James Monroe, Vice-presidents of the United States and many others were named for their states and elsewhere. The body was composed of members from each of the thirty member states, very few men being over seventy in the limits of West Virginia.

Among those was John Barker representing Presbyterian Society.
When early services were the Anglican, United,
Episcopal, and Methodist.

The Army Post Office was established about 1880
and was the first post office in Montserrat (LARRY). When
founded by a man, Mrs. Alice Moore, mother of the late
George P. Moore being a great student of the Bible suggested
a bible post. She said, "Will the post office stand, leave
off the at and add my saying Larry the word". (Montserrat 1880-1900).
The name stand means a business. In respect it is stated
that stand is one of the famous cities, and that my have
suggested the name to Mrs. Moore, for at a very early date
this little village was a famous standing. George P. Moore
was appointed postmaster in 1880 by President Clarke. He
was only sixteen years of age when he assumed this responsible
duties. He served as postmaster until 1888. William COOTE
was appointed postmaster under President Cleveland for some
time, and then George P. Moore was appointed again and served
until his death in 1912. His service made him the oldest
postmaster in the United States. He served thirty-four years.

In the early days mails were of great importance
and he said that the first mail was built by Robert Moore, Sr.,
at the head of the spring. This house was a small log
building, one or more stories high, situated close a swampy foot
covered with mud and water took from the head of the
spring. The inside equipment of the mill consisted of two
sets of barrels, with country made - one set standing about
one or more for standing from the house.

to first are still of the community and will need
the spirit will by lessen more and get water from the same
source. These wells were used for many years and this spot
was the most important business center of the community.

The first store in Birney was owned and kept by William
Hicks at the place where Elmer Pough now lives. James McNeal,
James and Henry Taylor, and George F. Moore had stores at this
same location.

The first schools in the community were held in the
settlers' homes. The teacher remained there board in the
home of his pupils and would spend a week in the home of one
pupil and then move on to the next. The first real school
house was near Mrs. George Barker's home. The house was a
round log structure with clapboard roof held in place by green
paint. The fire place took up most of one end of the room.
It was made of rough stone and the chimney was made of stone
and mud. The light greenest paper was pasted over the windows.
Seats were made of split logs, holes bored and pins put in
the logs. The term of school was three months and the teachers
salary was dollars a month and much paper.

The first church in the Birney Community was built on
Forest Green and called Hermit Chapel. It is a round log
building, staves split and hewed, shingles shingle roof, side
galleries, and for many years teachers with their names. Some
years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building
enlarged. The windows were replaced with chairs. This church
was built about 1880 and is still in use.